

House Resolution No.

Whereas, it is with special pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to recognize Shandi Finnessey of Florissant, Missouri, who was crowned the winner of the 2004 Miss USA Pageant held April 12, 2004, in Los Angeles, California; and

Whereas, Shandi Finnessey is a twenty-five-year-old honors graduate of Lindenwood University who holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and is pursuing her doctorate degree in counseling; and

Whereas, Shandi Finnessey is currently employed as a model for Talent Plus in St. Louis and the Ford Agency in Chicago, and boasts credits in television commercials, runway, and print for magazines, newspapers, commercial retail products, and billboards; and

Whereas, Shandi Finnessey has worked to promote inclusion of individuals with mental challenges and has played an integral role in the lives of young people as a motivational speaker, spending her days traveling across the state of Missouri and encouraging young students to practice inclusion of those who are "different"; and

Whereas, a supporter of numerous charities including the Special Olympics, Best Buddies International, and Gilda's Club, Shandi Finnessey was Miss Missouri America 2002 and represented the Show-Me State at the Miss America Pageant held in Atlantic City in 2002, where she won the evening gown preliminary award; and

Whereas, Shandi Finnessey distinguished herself as the First Runner Up at the Miss Universe Pageant held June 1, 2004, in Quito, Ecuador; and

Whereas, a talented musician who plays both the piano and violin, Shandi Finnessey has achieved all of this and more with the support and encouragement of her wonderful family which includes her parents, Patrick and Linda Finnessey; her three brothers, Shane, Damion, and Paul; and her favorite feline, Squeaky:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in extending our most hearty and robust congratulations to Shandi Finnessey at this proud moment of well-deserved distinction, and in wishing her only the very best of success as she represents her state and country as the new 2004 Miss USA; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for 2004 Miss USA, Shandi Finnessey, as a mark of our esteem for her.

Offered by _____
Representative Bruce Darrough
District No. 75

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. ____, adopted _____, 2004.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker